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18 March 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT : Laos Ideas

1. Attached is a memo I asked my colleagues to prepare outlining things that might be done within the next few days -- or, at most, the next fortnight -- which could be of some value in affecting the present critical situation in north Laos. In the interest of time I am not having the attachment retyped in final form. You will note that my colleagues have split their suggestions into ACTION ideas (i.e., things that might really hurt the opposition) and HARASSMENT ideas (i.e., steps that will throw him off balance perhaps but not inflict any serious damage.)

2. My colleagues did not mention the employment of B-52s since both of these ideas have already been broached by the field. Ignoring for a moment the political dimension of the Laos problem, B-52 strikes would be a great morale lift to the Meos and Souvanna and, where valid target boxes exist, would do serious damage to the enemy. They would also adversely affect enemy morale since B-52s apparently have an awesome reputation throughout the North Vietnamese Army.

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4. From a purely technical point of view, helicopter gunships might be somewhat less adversely affected by smoke and haze than some fixed-wing tactical aircraft. The big problem here is that helicopters -- even if MACV were willing to release them -- would have to be air lifted from South Vietnam.

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Furthermore, any movement of helicopters out of Vietnam would almost certainly become instantaneously known to and extensively reported by the U.S. press.

5. We offer these suggestions as ideas for the hopper. I am sending copies of this memo plus its attachment to the Director and

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Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

GACarver:taw:18Mar70

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